

Rabies Specimen Packaging Procedure

- NOTE: Only veterinarians or qualified animal control officers should handle the animal. Take care when severing the animal head; leave 2 cervical vertebrae attached. For bats, send entire animal. Do not damage the brain. Keep refrigerated. Do not freeze (delays testing). Ship promptly. NO LIVE ANIMALS! The shipping instructions below meet US DOT regulations.**

1. Preparation

- Wrap head and the 2 attached cervical vertebrae (or whole bat) in 2 plastic bags, one inside the other ("double bag")
- Place wrapped head (or bat) in rigid leak-proof container provided by PHL ("secondary container")
- Apply BioHazard label to container



2. Packaging

- Place properly sealed and BioHazard labeled secondary container into Air-Sea box (outer container provided to LHJs by PHL)
- Pack with frozen ice packs around secondary container



3. Forms

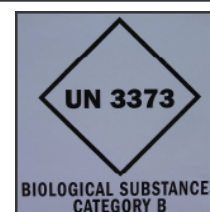
- Note: All specimens must be pre-approved by LHJs and DOH CD Epi prior to submission for testing**
- Fill out form completely, both sides
- Use one form per specimen
- Place form in separate sealed plastic bag
- Place form in outer container with specimen (but NOT with head or bat inside secondary container!)

Form available online at:

- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/forms/rabiesspec.pdf>

4. Labeling

- Seal box for shipping
- Check that the UN 3373 label is on the side of the shipping box
- Write shipper's name and phone number on outside of box



5. Addressing / Shipping

- Ensure the "From" and "To" addresses are correctly labeled on the box
- Keep a copy of the bus or FedEx bill for the tracking number!**

Ship by bus, FedEx, or vehicle to:

**Public Health Laboratories
ATTN: Virology Lab
1610 NE 150th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155-9701**

Questions?

**Epidemiology 24-hours:
(206) 418-5500 / 1-877-539-4344**

**Virology: (206) 418-5458
FAX: (206) 418-5485**



For complete written guidelines on this procedure, see:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/rabiesspecimenguidelines_Aug06.pdf

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